

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Cascades Boxboard U.S., Inc.

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

#### KMAC Helps Cascades Boxboard Improve Competitiveness

##### Client Profile:

Cascades Boxboard U.S., Inc., founded in 1964, produces, converts, and markets packaging and tissue products composed mainly of recycled fibers. Cascade's Hebron, Kentucky facility employs 80 people, and produces high quality folding cartons for oral care, pasta, cereal, and tissue industries.

##### Situation:

Operating in a highly competitive market, Cascade Boxboard leaders understood the need to manage their costs so they could not only retain customers but also gain new customers. One opportunity that Cascades targeted for improvement was the throughput on their printing press. The company set a goal of improving the printing press's throughput by 20 percent. Already on their Lean journey, Cascades decided to add Six Sigma to their continuous improvement toolbox and decided to participate in the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Centers (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, Six Sigma Training and Mentoring Program.

##### Solution:

KMAC facilitated a Deployment and Management Workshop with Cascades' leaders to map out a plan for deploying Six Sigma within their operation. With help from KMAC's Six Sigma Black Belt, Cascade identified Six Sigma projects for their Belt Candidates to undertake during their training. One of the projects focused on achieving a 20 percent improvement in the throughput of the printing press. Cascades' Black Belt Candidates participated in KMAC's Six Sigma training and mentoring program which taught the candidates how to address their projects using the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) process as well as how to use various Six Sigma tools. In addition, KMAC's Six Sigma Black Belt provided guidance and assistance to Cascades' Black Belt Candidate as he conducted his Six Sigma project focused on the printing press. With KMAC's assistance, the company's Black Belt completed his project and exceeded the targeted improvement goal.

##### Results:

Projected impacts:

- \* Increased throughput by 23 percent.
- \* Increased sales by \$400,000.
- \* Invested \$10,000 in new equipment.

##### Testimonial:

"The mentoring sessions with KMAC's Black Belt was instrumental to our success. Our Six Sigma Black Belt project has already shown excellent results that are resulting in increased customer satisfaction and on-time delivery. The training provided by KMAC has introduced us to the effectiveness of the Six Sigma methodology allowing us to begin using it on other processes. We

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would definitely recommend KMAC to other Kentucky manufacturers."

Gari Chingwena, Quality Coordinator